

This year has tested the resilience of our communities as a result of COVID-19. While, COVID-19 does not discriminate, however, immigrants and communities of color are more likely to suffer from underlying health conditions and work in industries which jobs can't be done in their homes. As a result, communities of color and immigrants have disproportionately been affected either by losing their jobs or lives to COVID19.

In response to COVID 19, CHIRLA pivoted our state platform and launched the "Yo Soy California/ I Am California" campaign to uplift the stories of immigrants impacted by COVID19 and demand state elected leaders and the Governor to create COVID19 relief programs for all residents regardless of immigration status. And simultaneously, continued to advocate for strengthening worker protections, advancing criminal justice reforms, increasing investments for immigration legal service to reach more families, and expanding the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) for immigrant working families.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES HIGHLIGHTS

AB 1947 (Kalra) - Workers protections (Sponsor) - Increases the statute of limitations for filing a worker retaliation claim from six months to one year in the administrative process, adding the ability to seek attorney's fees for prevailing employees in the legal process.

AB 2426 (Reyes) - Victims of Crime (Sponsor) - Clarifies existing statute federal and state statute for law enforcement agencies who are responsible to certify a U or T Visa form including K – 12 and university police departments while closing existing loopholes that law enforcement has exploited in recent years. By strengthening the certification process undocumented victims of crimes and human trafficking are more likely to come forward to report crimes committed against them

BUDGET VICTORIES HIGHLIGHTS

Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI): Utilizing the Rapid Response Fund established in 2019, the Department of Social Services allocated \$75 million to assist 155,000 immigrants excluded from federal COVID-19 relief due their immigration status.

Immigration Services Funding (One California Program): Maintained budget of \$65 million and an additional \$10 Million ongoing for Community College Immigrant Legal Services to be administered by One California Grantees

Emergency Funding for immigrant students: \$15 Million in one-time emergency grants for immigrant students. This funding derived from the Service Incentive Grant established in 2019 through a CHIRLA sponsored bill.

Dreamer Resource Liaison: \$5.8 Million ongoing for Community Colleges to hire Dream Resource Liaisons. This funding seeks to implement a CHIRLA sponsored bill which was enacted in 2019.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

The following are bills that Governor Newsom vetoed and failed to provide protections and relief for immigrant communities.

AB 826 (Santiago)- Emergency Food - Sought to provide one-time emergency food assistance during the COVID 19 health pandemic to all Californians regardless of immigration status. This measure would curb hunger in communities who are experiencing deep levels of poverty and have been excluded from stimulus relief.

SB 1257 (Durazo) - Household Workers - Would eliminate the “household domestic service” exclusion in the state’s labor law that requires employers to provide a safe working environment. For decades’ domestic workers have been excluded from worker protection laws.

For a complete list of all the legislation that CHIRLA worked in 2020, see a list below:

Legislation

Bill Number	Author	Summary	Status
TIER 1/CHIRLA 2020 Platform			
ACA 5	Weber	This measure would go before the voters during the November 2020 election to consider the repealing of the Proposition 209, which prohibits state governmental institutions from considering race, sex, or ethnicity, specifically in the areas of public employment, public contracting, and public education. ACA 5 would ensure equal opportunity in government when making decisions about contracts, hiring, and education.	Signed
AB 826	Santiago	AB 826 would provide one time emergency food assistance during the COVID 19 health pandemic to all Californians regardless of immigration status. This measure would curb hunger in communities who are experiencing deep levels of poverty and have been excluded from stimulus relief.	Vetoed
AB 1947	Kalra	Vulnerable worker populations with limited access to resources and legal representation would benefit from having more time to gather necessary evidence and	Signed

		materials to remedy disputes with employers. AB 1947 would increase the statute of limitations for filing a worker retaliation claim from six months to one year in the administrative process and adds the ability to seek attorney's fees for prevailing employees in the legal process.	
AB 2426	Reyes	Clarifies existing statute federal and state statute for law enforcement agencies who are responsible to certify a U or T Visa form including K – 12 and university police departments while closing existing loopholes that law enforcement has exploited in recent years. By strengthening the certification process undocumented victims of crimes and human trafficking are more likely to come forward to report crimes committed against them.	Signed
SB 824	Mitchell	Will repeal numerous fees that put thousands of dollars of additional administrative fees onto families of persons arrested, tried, acquitted, incarcerated or put on probation. Furthermore, failure to pay these onerous fees is grounds for denial of record clean up or ending probation, which is a significant barrier to employment and housing.	Signed
SB 1257	Durazo	SB 1257 would eliminate the “household domestic service” exclusion in the state’s labor law that requires employers to provide a safe working environment. For decades domestic workers have been excluded from worker protection laws.	Vetoed
TIER 2: Active Lobbied Bills			
AB 376	Stone	Immigrant students borrowers have been targets of aggressive marketing practices of the student loan industry in recent years. This bill establishes the Student Borrower Bill of Rights which will ensure that student borrowers are given reliable information, quality customer service, and meaningful access to repayment and forgiveness programs.	Signed
AB 860	Berman	This bill requires county elections officials to mail a ballot to every registered active voter for the November 3, 2020 statewide general election to ensure that all voters are able to participate in the safely during the health pandemic.	Signed
SB 423	Umberg	This bill authorizes changes to in-person voting requirements for the November 3, 2020 statewide general election, and requires the state and counties to conduct voter education and outreach campaigns to notify voters about voting in that election.	Signed
SB 555	Mitchell	This bill would reduce the cost of phone calls from juvenile facilities and county jail in addition to commissary items	Vetoed

bought in these facilities. Many families with loved ones in these facilities burden these costly fees.

TIER 3: Bills CHIRLA Supported

AB 331	Medina	This bill would require high schools to provide ethnic studies starting in academic year 2025-26 and require students to take one semester of ethnic studies to graduate beginning in 2029-2030. By taking ethnic studies courses in high school students would be taught a better understanding about the communities they live in and neighbor them.	Vetoed
AB 1460	Weber	This bill requires the California State University, starting in the 2021-2022 academic year, to provide courses in ethnic studies at each CSU campus and require it as a graduation requirement. Students graduating during the 2024-2025 academic year and every year after would need to meet this requirement.	Signed
AB 2043	R. Rivas	Directs CalOSHA to disseminate information on best practices regarding COVID-19 infection prevention to farm workers with and partnering with community based and employee organizations to conduct targeted outreach. Further, CalOSHA shall place on its website information regarding investigations in agriculture of COVID-19 safety practices or conditions, as well as injuries and illnesses related to COVID-19.	Signed
AB 2113	Low	This bill would expedite the process of obtaining a professional license for refugees, asylees, and those with Special Immigrant Visas. Immigrant and refugees who are professionals in their trade often experience significant delays in obtaining professional licenses in California due to the state's complex systems to obtain such licenses for those who were educated outside of the United States.	Signed
AB 2542	Kalra	This bill, known as the California Racial Justice Act, would prohibit the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction, based upon race, ethnicity or national origin.	Signed
AB 3133	Aguiar-Curry	This bill would codify California's commitment to participation in the United States Reception and Placement program and recognizes the importance of the refugee resettlement program as a humanitarian, national security, and foreign policy imperative of the United States.	Signed
AB 3216	Kalra	This bill provides a right of recall and retention rights for workers who have been laid off due to a state of emergency and who work in a hotel, private club, event center, airport, or provide building services to office, retail or other commercial buildings.	Vetoed

AB 3228	Bonta	This bill would provide accountability for health and safety in all private detention facilities in the state of California. In the wake of COVID-19 accountability in private detention facilities is an urgent issue to protect public health and human life. This bill would ensure that all detention facility operators in the state of California adhere to the minimum detention standards agreed upon in the contract for the facility. This bill would also provide a right of action if these standards are violated.	Signed
SB 970	Umberg	This bill would move California's statewide primary election in gubernatorial years from March to June. Given the delay in collecting census data this bill is critical to ensure proper redistricting is able to take place in 2021 for the 2022 election.	Signed

Budget Items

SUBJECT	SUMMARY	Investment	STATUS
CalEITC Expansion	Expanded CalEITC to all ITIN Filers	New Investment	Signed
One California	\$65 Million ongoing Immigration Legal Services	Sustained Investment	Signed
	\$10 Million ongoing for Community College Immigrant Legal Services to be administered by One California Grantees. CHIRLA lead in advocacy	New Investment	Signed
Emergency Funding for AB 540 Students	\$15 Million in one-time emergency grants for AB 540 students. This funding came from funding we secured last year for the Service Incentive Grant. CHIRLA lead in advocacy	Temporary	Signed
Dreamer Resource Liaison	\$5.8 Million ongoing for Community Colleges to hire Dream Resource Liaisons. CHIRLA lead in advocacy	New Investment	Signed
SEED Funding	\$10 Million one-time grants for immigrant entrepreneurs	New Investment	Signed
Student Debt	\$250,000 one-time to create a student debt working group conveyed by Cal Student Aid Commission	New Investment	Signed